

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EM5/NOAA/COMMERCE:R.L.LAVOIE:BT

APPROVED BY ARA/LA:A.FISHLOW

IAI/NOAA/COMMERCE:G.D.HUGHES

ARA/MEX:GEORGE FALK

OES/SCI/SA:R.MORRIS

ARA/LA:W.H.LUERS

ARA/LA:G.E.BROWN

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P 302103Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: MX, SENV, TGEN

SUBJECT: PROJECT STORMFURY

1. STORMFURY, THE U.S. EFFORT ATTEMPTING TO MODIFY HURRICANES, BEGAN EXPERIMENTS IN THE ATLANTIC IN 1962. THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (DOC) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) FIELD PROGRAM WAS SUSPENDED IN 1972. SINCE THAT TIME NOAA HAS BEEN ACQUIRING NEW AIRCRAFT AND INSTRUMENTING OTHERS. THEY ARE NOW AT THE STAGE WHEN SEEDING EXPERIMENTS CAN BE RESUMED IN 1977 OR 1978. THERE HAVE BEEN TENTATIVE PLANS TO EXPERIMENT IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC BUT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS HAVE RULED OUT THIS POSSIBILITY. IN ADDITION TO THE FORMER AREAS IN THE ATLANTIC AND THE CARIBBEAN, NOAA IS NOW CONSIDERING THE EASTERN PACIFIC AS AN EXPERIMENTAL AREA IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE YEARLY EXPERIMENTAL POSSIBILITIES. IN ORDER TO GATHER MORE DATA ON THE POORLY OBSERVED EASTERN PACIFIC HURRICANES, NOAA PROPOSES SEVERAL MONITORING MISSIONS OFF THE MEXICAN

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COAST DURING THE SUMMERS OF 1976 AND 1977 BEFORE CONTEMPLA-

TING A SEEDING EXPERIMENT.

2. NOAA PERSONNEL WOULD LIKE TO BRIEF EMBASSY STAFF ON THEIR PLANS FOR STORMFURY AND RECEIVE EMBASSY GUIDANCE ON THE BEST WAY TO APPROACH THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO.

GOM WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE CONTACTED DURING THIS VISIT. PROJECT OF THIS KIND WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY UNDER SECRETARY'S COMMITTEE. WE WOULD EXPECT, TOO, TO HAVE ACTIVE GOM PARTICIPATION AS WELL AS APPROVAL AND THIS IS ONE OF THE POINTS GROUP WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH EMBASSY.

3. THE FOLLOWING NOAA PERSONNEL PROPOSE TO ARRIVE 10 FEBRUARY FOR MEETINGS ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE 10 AND MORNING OF THE 11TH WITH APPROPRIATE POLICY, SCIENTIFIC, AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL: DR. EDWARD S. EPSTEIN, ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND PREDICTION. MR. MERLIN C. WILLIAMS, ACTING PROGRAM MANAGER FOR WEATHER MODIFICATION. DR. NOEL LASEUR, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL HURRICANE AND EXPERIMENTAL METEOROLOGY LABORATORY.

4. IF THIS TIME IS CONVENIENT, REQUEST EMBASSY MAKE NECESSARY HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR NIGHT OF 10 AND 11TH OF FEBRUARY AND ADVISE EMBASSY CONTACT FOR THE NOAA PARTY. KISSINGER

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